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ABSTRACT

Past trends and projected future changes in the composition of enrollment across levels of education and regions of the country, as well as between public and private schools, indicate the amount of resources the nation's schools will require. This report issued by the National Center for Education Statistics indicates that total (public and private) elementary and secondary school enrollment increased during the late 1980s and 1990s, reaching an all-time high of 52.7 million in 1998. This increase followed declining total enrollment in elementary and secondary schools during the 1970s and early 1980s (from 51.3 million in 1971 to 44.9 million in 1984). Total elementary and secondary school enrollment is estimated to increase by 3 percent to 54.3 million between 1998 and 2008. Secondary school enrollments are projected to increase by 11 percent for both public and private schools between 1998 and 2008, while enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 8 is projected to decrease slightly. Total public school enrollment is estimated to increase in the South and West by 4 and 11 percent, respectively, but to decrease in the Northeast and Midwest by 1 and 3 percent, respectively, between 1998 and 2008. (DFR)

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ED 441 276

INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

May 2000

Elementary and secondary school enrollment

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EA 030 403

INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Elementary and secondary school enrollment

May 2000

School enrollment is one measure of the size of the educational system and of the demand for teachers, buildings, and educational resources. Past trends and projected future changes in the composition of enrollment across levels of education and regions of the country, as well as between public and private schools, indicate the amount of resources the Nation requires.

- Total (public and private) elementary and secondary school enrollment increased considerably during the late 1980s and 1990s, reaching an all-time high of 52.7 million in 1998. This increase followed declining total enrollment in elementary and secondary schools during the 1970s and early 1980s (from 51.3 million in 1971 to 44.9 million in 1984).
- Total elementary and secondary school enrollment is projected to increase by 3 percent (to 54.3 million) between 1998 and 2008.
- Secondary school enrollments (grades 9–12) are projected to increase by 11 percent for both public and private schools between 1998 and 2008, while enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 8 is projected to decrease slightly.
- Total public school enrollment is projected to increase in the South and West (by 4 and 11 percent, respectively) but to decrease in the Northeast and Midwest (by 1 and 3 percent, respectively) between 1998 and 2008.

Elementary and secondary school enrollment (in thousands), by control and grade level of school, with projections: Fall 1970–2008

	Public schools			Private schools[1]		
Year/period	Grades PreK–12	Grades PreK–8	Grades 9–12	Grades PreK–12	Grades PreK–8	Grades 9–12
1970	45,894	32,558	13,336	5,363	4,052	1,311
1988	40,189	28,501	11,687	5,241	4,036	1,206
1998	46,792	33,522	13,270	5,927	4,588	1,339
	Projected[2]			Projected[2]		
2008	48,201	33,455	14,746	6,067	4,579	1,488
	Percentage change			Percentage change		
1970–88	-12.4	-12.5	-12.4	-2.3	-0.4	-8.0
	Projected percentage change			Projected percentage change		
1988–98	16.4	17.6	13.5	13.1	13.7	11.0
1998–2008	3.0	-0.2	11.1	2.4	-0.2	11.1

[1] Beginning in fall 1980, data include estimates for the expanded universe of private schools.

[2] Enrollment includes students in kindergarten through grade 12 and some nursery school students.

NOTE: Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics 1998* (based on Common Core of Data) and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2008*, 1998.

Public elementary and secondary school enrollment (in thousands), by region, with projections: Fall 1980–2008

Fall of year	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1980	8,215	10,698	14,134	7,831
1988	7,208	9,846	14,491	8,644
1990	7,282	9,944	14,807	9,184
1995	7,894	10,512	16,118	10,316
1998*	8,215	10,680	16,864	11,033
2008*	8,100	10,344	17,501	12,257
		Projected percentage change		
1988–98	14.0	8.5	16.4	27.6
1998–2008	-1.4	-3.1	3.8	11.1

* Projected enrollment. Enrollment includes students in kindergarten through grade 12 and some nursery school students.

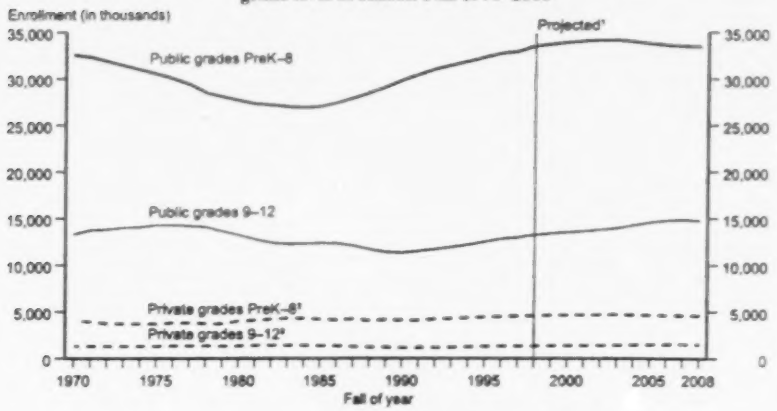
NOTE: Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics 1998* (based on Common Core of Data) and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2008*, 1998.

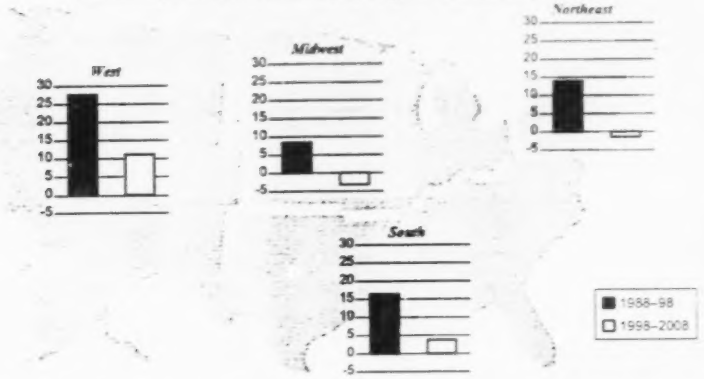
ER 030403

Elementary and secondary school enrollment

Elementary and secondary school enrollment, by control and grade level of school: Fall 1970–2008



Projected percentage change in public elementary and secondary school enrollment, by region: Fall 1988–2008



[1] Enrollment includes students in kindergarten through grade 12 and some nursery school students.

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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics 1998* (based on Common Core of Data) and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2008*, 1998.

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